

# 2022 **Wildfire** Summary

## WFAC Meeting

### January 24, 2023

*Presented by Angie Lane, ADM  
Wildland Fire Management Division  
Plans and Information*



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

[dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov)

# 2022 FIRE YEAR OVERVIEW

## APRIL

- Wet spring improves drought conditions
- Only 31 fires and 250 acres burned

## MAY

- Fire season still delayed by wet spring
- Snowpack in some locations at over 300 percent of normal

## JUNE

- Most areas of abnormally dry drought conditions now registering at moderate
- Late start to fire activity, with only two fires greater than 10 acres
- Warming and drying towards end of June



# 2022 FIRE YEAR OVERVIEW

## JULY

- Initially, July saw a return to cool and damp conditions
- In mid-July, fire ignitions increase, signifying the start of the active part of fire season
- Stayman Flats reported at 1,200 acres (final size ended up being 1,101)

## AUGUST

- Extreme heat pushed ERC indices into the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for many portions of the state
- RH values in single digits and wind gusts upwards of 30 mph were present during the initial attack on Williams Lake and Cow Canyon fires
- Several lightning events ignite many fires

## SEPTEMBER

- A less damaging offshore event, similar to Labor Day in 2020, brings temperatures into the 90s and RH values as low as 11 percent on the west side of the state.
- Explosive growth during the initial attack of Bolt Creek on September 10
- Smoke impacts result for west side communities

## OCTOBER

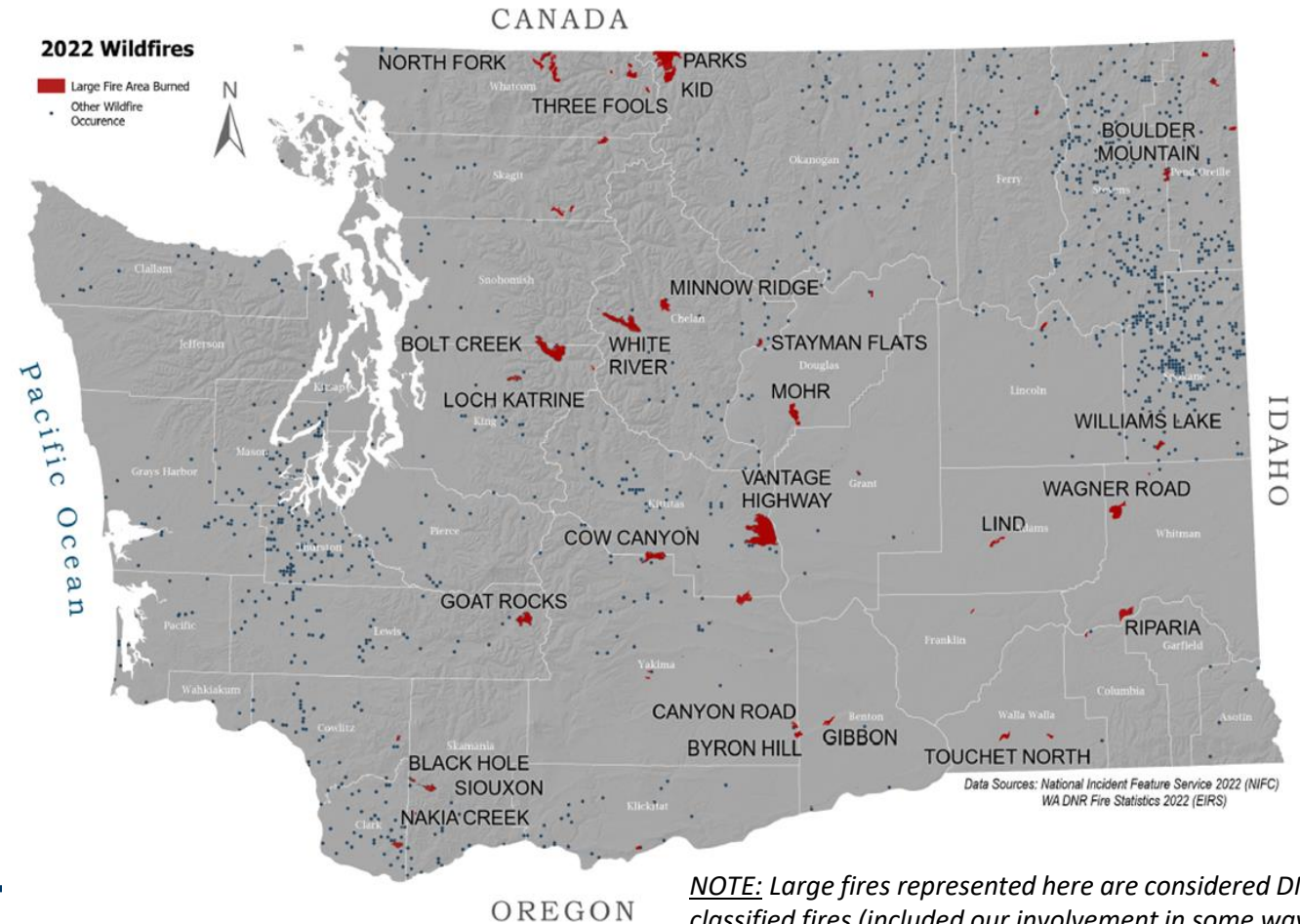
- Another east wind event in mid-October caused all active large fires to take off
- Team assignments extended
- Significant smoke intrusion on the west side of the state
- Fall rains on October 21 finally put an end to the active part of the fire year



# 2022 LARGE FIRE LOCATIONS AND STATISTICS

Approx. 831 DNR Classified fires burned more than 84,801 acres across Washington. This is 33 percent of the acres burned in 2021.

**On average for 3 quarters, 93.2% OF ALL DNR FIRES KEPT AT 10 ACRES OR LESS**



***NOTE:** Large fires represented here are considered DNR classified fires (included our involvement in some way, either as a threat or started on DNR, or DNR supported). This may not be "all" large fires in Washington. This is explained in the Legislative report.*





# What about set up for next year?

- *During March and April, colder than typical and wetter than typical in eastern Washington*
- *A transition from La Nina is anticipated during the spring months: potential for drying in June*
- *Drought outlook seems*



*positive*



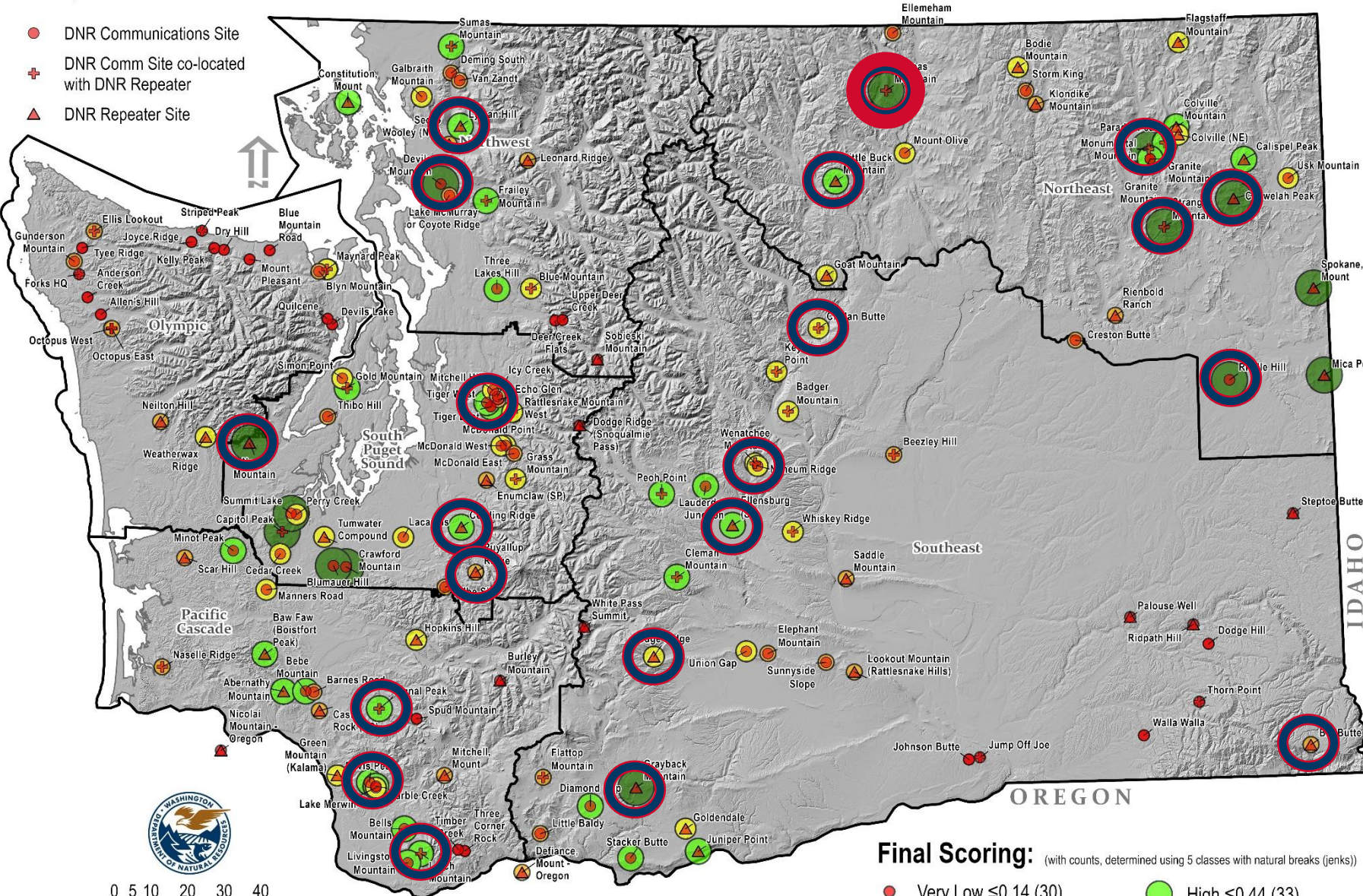
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# Potential Fire Camera Site Locations - Site Suitability Results

Fire Camera Site Suitability Analysis  
Created by: Kirk Davis - Wildfire Division - 12/04/2020

- DNR Communications Site
- + DNR Comm Site co-located with DNR Repeater
- ▲ DNR Repeater Site



○ = SELECTED  
○ = EXISTING

Site Name	Region
Aeneas Mountain	NE
Stranger Mountain	NE
Chelan Butte	SE
Davis Peak	PC
Devils Mountain	NW
Larch Mountain	PC
Monumental Mountain	NE
Naneum Ridge*	SE
Riddle Hill	NE
Signal Peak	PC
Tiger West	SPS
Big Butte	SE
Chewelah Peak	NE
Cowling Ridge	SPS
Ellensburg (SE HQ)	SE
Grayback Mountain	SE
Little Buck Mountain	NE
Lyman Hill	NW
North Mountain	SPS
Puyallup Ridge*	SPS
Sedge Ridge	SE

**Final Scoring:** (with counts, determined using 5 classes with natural breaks (jenks))

- Very Low  $\leq 0.14$  (30)
- Low  $\leq 0.22$  (37)
- Medium  $\leq 0.31$  (33)
- High  $\leq 0.44$  (33)
- Very High  $\leq 0.70$  (14)



Results and Outputs  
STATEWIDE RESULTS MAP - SELECTIONS